IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please replace paragraph 001 with the following paragraph:

This application is a Continuation in Part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. ~~10/53,219,~~ 10/153,219, filed May 22, 2002, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/292,845, filed May 22, 2001. This application also claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/428,013, filed Nov. 21, 2002. The entire disclosure of all referenced priority applications is specifically incorporated herein by reference.

On page 63, please replace paragraph 00255 with the following paragraph:

In yet another embodiment, the invention comprises a method for obtaining additional rounds of synthesis of a transcription product corresponding to a target nucleic acid sequence, the method comprising: (a) obtaining a first transcription product by transcription of a first ssDNA transcription substrate corresponding to a target nucleic acid sequence; (b) obtaining a reverse transcriptase; (c) reverse transcribing the first transcription product; (d) obtaining first-strand cDNA complementary to the first transcription product; (e) obtaining a second ssDNA transcription substrate by operably joining to the first-strand cDNA a single-stranded polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence that binds an RNA polymerase that can ~~ranscribe~~ transcribe RNA using a single-stranded promoter; (f) obtaining an RNA polymerase that can transcribe RNA using a single-stranded promoter; (g) obtaining nucleoside triphosphates (NTPs) that are substrates for the RNA polymerase; (h) admixing the RNA polymerase, the second ssDNA transcription substrate and the NTPs; and (i) incubating the RNA polymerase and the second ssDNA transcription substrate under conditions effective to allow synthesis of a second transcription product. This method for obtaining additional rounds of synthesis of transcription product can be repeated in a stepwise manner to obtain synthesis of still more transcription products. Alternatively, in other embodiments, the invention comprises continuous transcription, wherein additional ssDNA transcription substrates are obtained continuously by reverse transcription of transcription products to obtain first-strand cDNA and operable joining of a promoter to the first-strand cDNA, and wherein, the additional ssDNA transcriptional substrates are used to make more transcription products.

On page 106, please replace paragraph 00403 with the following paragraph:

Thus, this embodiment of the invention comprises a method for obtaining a substrate for transcription by a T7-type RNAP that uses a double-stranded promoter, the method comprising: (a) obtaining a single-stranded target nucleic acid comprising a target sequence; (b) obtaining a primer that anneals to the 3'-end of the target sequence; (c) annealing the primer to the target sequence under annealing conditions; (d) synthesizing first-strand cDNA by primer extension of the primer annealed to the 3'-end of the target sequence using a DNA polymerase or reverse transcriptase under polymerization conditions; (e) optionally, tailing the first-strand cDNA; (f) obtaining a splice template oligo, the splice template oligo comprising an anti-sense sequence of a double-stranded promoter and wherein the 3'-end portion of the splice template oligo anneals to the 3'-end of the first-strand cDNA including the tail sequence, if present; (g) annealing the splice template oligo first-strand cDNA; (h) primer extending the 3'-end of the first-strand cDNA using the annealed splice template oligo as a template using a DNA polymerase or reverse transcriptase under polymerization conditions; (i) obtaining a ssDNA "pro-transcription substrate," the pro-transcription substrate comprising the primer-extended first-strand cDNA having at its 3'-end a sense strand promoter sequence; (j) annealing to the pro-transcription substrate an anti-sense promoter oligo, the anti-sense promoter oligo comprising an the anti-sense promoter sequence that is complementary to the sense strand promoter sequence of the pro-transcription substrate; (k) obtaining a "transcription substrate complex," the transcription substrate complex comprising the complex between the pro-transcription substrate and the anti-sense promoter oligo. The transcription substrate complex can be used to make a transcription product using a T7-type RNAP that binds to the double-stranded promoter in the transcription substrate complex and that uses the single-stranded template attached thereto as a template for transcription under transcription conditions. In another embodiment, the ssDNA pro-transcription substrate is circularized using a ligase under ligation conditions prior to annealing an anti-sense promoter oligo, thereby obtaining a "circular transcription substrate complex." Transcription of a circular transcription substrate complex using a T7-type RNAP under transcription conditions comprises "rolling circle transcription," which, unless a transcription termination sequence is present in the circular transcription substrate, makes concatameric transcription products. The methods of the present invention differ from the methods disclosed in PCT Patent Application No. WO

02/065093 which synthesize double-stranded templates for use as transcription substrates.

On page 121, please replace paragraph 00470 with the following paragraph:

In the example in FIG. 22, the target sequence comprises target nucleic acid comprising all mRNA molecules in a sample and the transcription products that are made by transcription of the transcription substrate comprise RNA that is essentially the same as the sense mRNA. Thus, in this embodiment, the circular first-strand cDNA comprises a ssDNA transcription substrate of the invention, which embodiment is useful for many applications. If [[the]] there is no sequence in the circular ssDNA transcription substrate that results in termination of transcription, transcription continues around and around the circular ssDNA transcription substrate multiple times and generates concatemers of sense transcription products (i.e., comprising tandem copies of the same nucleic acid sequence as an mRNA target nucleic acid sequence in the sample), which concatemers are useful for certain applications of the invention.